

News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

Voice: Springfield. 217.782.5793 Chicago. 312.814.2850 FAX 217.524.0674 BBS 217.782.9233 <http://www.state.il.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Steve Laffey, ICC, 217-785-9026 • Chip Pew, Operation Lifesaver, 847-433-3943
Dr. Lanny Wilson, DuPage Railroad Safety Council, 630-920-9223

NEWS ADVISORY

WHAT: 2006 Railroad Safety Conference: Teaming Up For Pedestrian Safety
Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks

WHO: DuPage Railroad Safety Council, Operation Lifesaver, Illinois Commerce Commission

WHERE: Hamburger University
McDonald's Office Campus
2815 Jorie Boulevard
Oak Brook, Illinois 60521
630-990-5800

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006
Program starts at 8 a.m. (See attachment)

WHY: The mission of the DuPage Railroad Safety Council is to prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways. Since its inception more than 12 years ago, we have teamed up with a variety of organizations and individuals to promote a safe, successful railroad industry. We know that moving passengers and products in trains is much safer and better for the environment than moving the same numbers in automobiles and trucks. We also know that a successful railroad industry can afford the highest quality safety features while providing the highest quality services.

Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks – 2006, our railroad safety conference, is about teaming up for pedestrian safety. During our time as an organization, we have seen the number of deaths and injuries dramatically decrease at highway-rail grade crossings while we have seen no decline in pedestrian/trespassing incidents. The purpose of this year's conference is to empower communities and individuals with the information to change that reality. To that end, we anticipate a remarkable improvement in the pedestrian/trespasser statistics in the coming years, and to that end, the 94th General Assembly of Illinois has designated the week of our conference as "Railroad Safety Week".

The Illinois Commerce Commission and Operation Lifesaver have joined our team this year. One of our finest members gave us a working definition of TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More. The collective wisdom of our panelists and the networking which invariably occurs will create new railroad safety champions in our audience and will sharpen the saws of those champions who are taking a break to be with like-minded people.

Families, friends, communities, commuters, and railroad companies suffer with every pedestrian/trespasser incident. Come and be part of the team which will help prevent that suffering. Sept. 14, 2006 has the potential of being an historic day. Together, everyone in attendance will make this the day that we start seeing a dramatic decline in the number of trespasser/pedestrian deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.

(More)

527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, IL 62701

Program

- 7:00 a.m. Registration ~ Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Welcome/Champion Awards Presentation
Dr. Lanny Wilson, Chairman
Robert Schillerstrom, DuPage County Board Chairman
John Noel Memorial
- 8:15 a.m. Legislative ~ Panel
Paul Froehlich, Illinois State Representative - Moderator
Senator Kirk Dillard (R) • Representative Patti Bellock (R)
Senator Don Harmon (D) • Representative Kevin Joyce (D)
- 9:15 a.m. Trespassing and Pedestrian Safety ~ Panel
Commissioner Erin O'Connell-Diaz, Illinois Commerce Commission – Moderator
Steve Laffey, Illinois Commerce Commission
Ian Savage, Professor Northwestern University
Karen Marshall, American Association of Suicidology
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Engineering ~ Panel
Michael E. Stead, Illinois Commerce Commission - Moderator
Aaron Gellman, Professor, Northwestern University
John Redden, Hanson Professional Services
Bill Tupper, Chief Operating Officer, Metra Commuter Railroad
- 11:30 a.m. Education ~ Panel
Rose Humiston - Moderator
Chip Pew, Illinois State Coordinator, Operation Lifesaver
Dave Franson, Principal of Lyons Township High School
Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH of Children's Memorial Hospital
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
Educator Award
Keynote Speaker Ian Savage, Professor, Northwestern University
- 2:00 p.m. Law Enforcement ~ Panel
William Czubaja, Senior Special Agent, Burlington Northern Santa Fe - Moderator
Officer Rick Talerico – Clarendon Hills Police Department
Officer Ray Jagman, Downers Grove Police Department
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Grassroots Involvement at Community Level ~ Panel
George Graves - Moderator
Patrick Higgins, Village Manager of Western Springs
Rick Curneal, DuPage Mayors & Managers
Betty Olivera, President, Victor's Crossing
- 4:15 p.m. Closing Summary
Dr. Lanny Wilson, Chairman

There may be changes to this agenda the day of the event.